## CENTENNIAL COMMUNICATIONS

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August 8, 2006

Kris Monteith, Chief Enforcement Bureau Federal Communications Commission 445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW Room 7-C723 Washington, DC 20554

Catherine W. Seidel, Acting Chief Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Federal Communications Commission 445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW Washington, DC 20554

> Re: Fourteenth Quarterly Report of Centennial Communications Corp. on E911 Compliance

Dear Ms. Monteith and Ms. Seidel:

Pursuant to the FCC's *Order to Stay* issued in CC Docket No. 94-102,¹ and the request of Commission staff, Centennial Communications Corp. ("Centennial") hereby voluntarily files this fourteenth Quarterly Report detailing our progress in deploying Phase I and Phase II enhanced 911 ("E911") service in our markets. Centennial filed its last quarterly progress report on May 4, 2006. Because Centennial provides CMRS service both in and outside of the continental United States, this report is divided into two sections — the first explaining the status of Phase II E911 deployment in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the second part reports on Phase II E911 deployment in our domestic markets. In addition, we are attaching the Excel spreadsheet detailing our E911 implementation status.²

## I. Puerto Rico/U.S. Virgin Islands

FCC 02-210, released July 26, 2002.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> See Public Notice, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Standardizes Carrier Reporting on Wireless E911 Implementation, DA 03-1902, released June 6, 2003.

Centennial Puerto Rico License Corp., a subsidiary of Centennial, holds the B block broadband PCS license for MTA 25 – Puerto Rico/US Virgin Islands. Although Centennial initially deployed a network-based solution to effectuate E911 service in Puerto Rico, Centennial has since initiated a complete upgrade of its system there. As part of that overhaul, Centennial has upgraded from Lucent to Nortel switches, effectively replacing its entire network. Consequently, Centennial necessarily switched from a network- to a handset-based solution for the provision of E911 services, thus potentially increasing the overall system reliability and accuracy with which subscribers can be located in an emergency, through use of GPS-enabled devices in individual handsets.

A single PSAP serves Centennial's entire Puerto Rican service area. On November 4, 2003, Centennial received a request for Phase I and II E911 service from this sole PSAP. Centennial and the PSAP had been working towards deploying both Phase I and Phase II E911 service in Puerto Rico by July 15, 2004. However due to persistent equipment compatibility problems between Centennial and the PSAP, the parties agreed to extend the Phase II deployment target until August 20, 2004, and both Phase I and Phase II service has since been implemented via a network-based solution.

With respect to the switch to a handset-based solution, Centennial worked closely with the PSAP in Puerto Rico to make sure that the PSAP's needs were met as soon as practicable. Significantly, Centennial committed to maintaining its network-based E911 solution, concurrent with adapting to a handset-based solution, until December 31, 2006. The PSAP – Junta de Gobierno del Servicio 911 – has not indicated any objections to, or concerns with, Centennial's proposal. On November 3, 2005, Centennial notified the FCC of its change in solution to provide E911 service, and also requested a limited waiver of the December 31, 2005 95% penetration requirement set forth at 47 C.F.R. § 20.18(g)(1)(v) of the Commission's rules. Significantly, Centennial recently advised the Commission that as of July 18, 2006, it had achieved a 95.55% GPS-capable handset penetration rate, and is in compliance with the FCC's rules for handset-based E911 solutions.

Centennial also provides service to the U.S. Virgin Islands of St. Croix and St. Thomas under its B Block license for MTA 25. Each island is served by a single PSAP; however at this point, neither PSAP has made a request to Centennial for either Phase I or Phase II E911 service.

## **Domestic Markets**

Through five different subsidiaries,<sup>3</sup> Centennial holds licenses to provide digital cellular and PCS service in 33 markets in the Midwest and Southern United States. Centennial provides CMRS in the following six states: Indiana, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Ohio and Texas. Centennial utilizes TCS as its E911 partner and has chosen a network-based solution offered by Andrew Corporation to deploy Phase II E911 in its domestic markets.<sup>4</sup>

Phase I Service – Centennial continues to make significant progress initiating Phase I service to PSAPs. To date, we have initiated Phase I E911 service to 147 PSAPs in our domestic markets. As we have previously reported, Centennial continues to receive PSAP requests for Phase I E911 service and we continue to implement Phase I service as valid requests are received. Phase I E911 service has been fully deployed in our Indiana, Michigan and Texas markets. Centennial also notes that, to date, we have received two valid requests for Phase I E911 service from PSAPs in the state of Ohio. We have deployed Phase I service in Defiance County; however, in Paulding County the PSAP is experiencing implementation issues. We expect their equipment upgrade to be completed in mid-September. Centennial also implemented Phase I service to Tangipahoa Parish, Louisiana on May 16, 2006.

<u>Phase II Service</u> - We are implementing Andrew Corporation's "Geometrix" network overlay solution for E911 Phase II compliance in our domestic markets. Since the filing of our last quarterly report, Centennial has activated thirteen new counties to Phase II compliance. In total, we have integrated eighty two PSAP markets into a "Live" status, and we have five markets in various stages of the implementation process.

As we previously reported, Centennial experienced deployment difficulties in four central Michigan counties - Gladwin, Gratiot, Ogemaw, and Roscommon - due to lack of cell site density. Centennial has since been successful in initiating service in Gladwin and Gratiot counties; however, we continue to experience difficulty in Roscommon and Ogemaw. While implementation was attempted, it was unsuccessful due to accuracy issues. In order to improve accuracy to an acceptable level in all four listed Michigan counties, we are making site adjustments and deploying equipment at five Phase II GEO-only sites. While this is a time-

Bauce Communications of Beaumont, Inc., Centennial Michiana License Company LLC, Centennial Southeast License Company LLC, Elkhart Metronet, Inc. and Lafayette Cellular Telephone Company.

See Centennial Communications Corp. Amended Report on E911 Reporting Requirements, filed September 9, 2002.

consuming process, which is further complicated by the lack of cell tower sites in the region, we remain in regular contact with the affected PSAP directors, and they have not objected to our revised deployment schedule. We anticipate that the two new GEO-only sites for Roscommon and Ogemaw will be completed by mid-September and integration with the PSAPs scheduled for October.

Centennial has successfully integrated all Texas PSAPs to Phase II status that have requested Phase II service. Presently, we have one pending Phase II E911 service request from a PSAP in Ohio and two pending Phase II requests from PSAPs in Mississippi. The Paulding County, Ohio PSAP is in the process of upgrading their equipment to accept Phase II data. In Mississippi, both the Lincoln County and Claiborne/Port Gibson PSAPs are scheduled for Phase II deployment in September. Centennial continues to work cooperatively with PSAPs when we encounter issues that result in delays to the previously-negotiated mutually acceptable deployment dates.

In sum, Centennial is presently in compliance with all applicable Phase II deployment benchmarks, either through meeting the six-month deadline, or negotiating mutually acceptable alternative deployment dates. Phase I & II implementation remain a high priority with Centennial in each of the PSAP's in its domestic markets. Centennial will continue to work cooperatively with PSAPs to deliver the requested service in a timely and efficient manner.

## III. Affidavit

I hereby declare under penalty of perjury that the information provided in this response is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

If you have any questions regarding this report, or require additional information, please contact me.

Sincerely,

/s/ William Roughton

William Roughton Vice President, Legal and Regulatory

**Affairs** 

Centennial Communications Corp.

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